

3/4/52

Dr. W. Hayes  
Postgraduate Medical School  
Ducane Rd.  
London W.12

Dear Hayes,

The Lederbergs and I have agreed to write jointly about our observations on the transmission of F+, the fertility factor, and since some of our observations, at least those on genetic infection, are so close to yours, we thought that it might be reasonable to publish such a paper on the Journal of General Microbiology, possibly in the same issue in which your paper on the same subject will appear - I hope I understood correctly when you said you would send a paper to this journal. I am myself a member of the Society of General Microbiology, and I hope we shall have the paper accepted. If you think this suits you, we may perhaps send both a word to the editors about it. I expect our paper may be ready by the end of this month.

As you know, both Lederberg and I cannot agree to the idea of a "self-reproducing gamete", which seems to obscure rather than to enlighten the picture, and it may be worth expressing our views on this in the paper. I am telling you this, also in agreement with Lederberg, because you might like to take this opportunity to clarify your own views on the matter on the JGM paper. I have tried to express to you my ideas in London, but the time has been unfortunately short, and the discussion took place mostly after a good meal. However, should you like to have further exchange of ideas and comments on the subject, I should be quite glad of doing this by mail.

I have not yet tried the sample of DNA-ase which you kindly sent me, but hope to do so next week.

With best regards to Mrs. Hayes,  
Yours sincerely

c/ to Lederberg.